

A Year Celebrating Neighborhood Partnerships



Cincinnati Parks

2003 Annual Report

Cincinnati Park Board 2003 Annual Report

“A Year Celebrating Neighborhood Partnerships”

Board of Park Commissioners



Marian J. Lindberg, President



Howard H. Bond, Vice President



Francis P. Russell



Roscoe A. Fultz



Otto M. Budig, Jr.

Mission Statement

Conserving, managing, sustaining, and enhancing parks’ natural and cultural resources and public greenspaces –for the enjoyment, enlightenment, and enrichment of the Cincinnati community.

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Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park
Welcome Sign in Eight Languages of the World



Seven Vessels Ascending/Descending – Sundial sculpture in the Plaza
of the Sun at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park

About the Cover: Photographs on the cover of this Annual Report feature the Park Board's newest park that opened in 2003, Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park (TMBIFP). The photo on the left shows a view of the Ohio River as you stand in the new park at the "Hands of the Land" earth sculpture. Readers will notice that the pair of open hands symbol from the TMBIFP logo is repeated throughout the Report. The photo on the right is of Theodore M. Berry Plaza near the entrance of the park.



Letter from the Director

A Year Celebrating Neighborhood Partnerships

I am pleased to present the Cincinnati Park Board's 2003 Annual Report. It describes the accomplishments we were able to celebrate thanks to the hard work of our employees, stakeholders and our neighborhood partners!

The celebration theme is symbolized in this report by images from our newest city park, Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park. The grand opening on May 17, 2003, celebrated the legacy of Theodore M. Berry, the first African-American mayor of Cincinnati, the rich cultural diversity of our citizenry, and the international friendships with our seven Sister Cities. We are proud to add this world-class park to an excellent Cincinnati Park system that is rated as one of the top urban park systems in the country. We are proud that this park reflects the best of Cincinnati, a community that values beautiful public spaces as places to celebrate among friends, neighbors and nations.

Partnership With Park Volunteers

Cincinnati Parks continues to be grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who provide thousands of hours of volunteer work in our parks each year. Volunteers are the heart of our community, the source of endless possibilities for our parks. Our park volunteers worked energetically all year, from cleaning up the parks on Green Up Day in the spring to serving as ambassadors of Krohn Conservatory during the annual Butterfly Show. In addition to our traditional core of volunteers, Parks wants to recognize the enthusiasm and efforts of our 16 Park Advisory Councils, and the newest volunteer group started in 2003, the Park Unit of Citizens on Patrol. On September 12, 2003 Parks held a special Volunteer Recognition Event at Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park to thank all our dedicated volunteers. The annual value of Park volunteer hours is estimated at \$400,000 using the city's living wage calculation. Of note, if we use the recent federal government's valuation per AmeriCorps of \$25 per volunteer hour, the total annual volunteer value to Parks is \$1 million!

Partnership For A Liveable City

The livability of any city can be measured by many factors. Among them is the importance City leaders place on youth, education and natural resources. I am thrilled to report to you that our city officials—specifically the Mayor and City Council—demonstrated their support of these community priorities by voting to continue vital funding for Cincinnati Parks' award-winning Nature Education

programs. Even in challenging budgetary times, the leadership of our City agreed with the Board of Park Commissioners and clearly saw the long-term benefits this critical investment would yield. The solid partnership that the Mayor and City Council have forged with the Park Board is a powerful illustration of the importance local leadership has placed on nature preservation through environmental education.

“Parknerships” With The Hamilton County Park District

The Cincinnati Park Board developed an innovative regional partnership in order to benefit our parks. On March 25, 2003 we celebrated the historic signing of a “PARKnership” resolution by the presidents of the Cincinnati Park Board and the Hamilton County Park District. The Saylor Park neighborhood benefits tremendously from the PARKnership because it enabled the Hamilton County Park District to contribute \$2.7 million in park improvements, as well as assume the operating, maintenance and Ranger patrol of Fernbank Park. Other Cincinnati neighborhoods benefited as well, because \$678,000 earmarked for Fernbank Park improvements in the Park Board's 2003 capital budget was able to be re-directed to twelve other neighborhood parks in 2003.

On October 30, 2003 we celebrated a second PARKnership with the groundbreaking ceremony for the Otto Armleder Memorial Park & Recreation Complex. Thanks to the generosity of the Otto Armleder Foundation, this 350 acre park will become the City's second largest park, after Mt. Airy Forest. It is being developed through the partnership of the Cincinnati Park Board, the Hamilton County Park District, and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. It is on the banks of the Little Miami Scenic River, which is both a state and federally designated scenic river – a rarity within the boundaries of a major city. The Armleder PARKnership is leveraging \$4 million of site improvements from the Hamilton County Park District for this exciting new park.

Celebrating The Neighborhood Parks Initiative

The Cincinnati Parks Foundation embarked on a first ever neighborhood parks fundraising campaign in 2003—and successfully raised \$200,000! The Park Board matched the private funding with \$300,000, for a total neighborhood parks improvement budget of \$500,000. The combination of the Neighborhood Parks Initiative and the reallocation of capital project money from the Fernbank Park “PARKnership” resulted in Cincinnati Parks investing over \$1 million in

neighborhood parks in the summer of 2003. Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken has described Parks' commitment to neighborhoods in this way: "The strength of a city depends on the strength of its neighborhoods. We are so very fortunate here in Cincinnati to have a Parks department that recognizes the importance of keeping our neighborhoods vital and inviting."

I would like to close by thanking the Board of Park Commissioners for developing and sustaining partnerships in 2003 that enabled Parks to accomplish more than ever. The Board's partnership efforts with park volunteers, neighborhood activists, Mayor Luken, the Hamilton County Park District, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the Sister Cities Association and many other business and political leaders of this community have established a legacy of commitment to Cincinnati Parks—definitely a year worthy of celebration!

Willie F. Carden, Jr.



Dedication of the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park
May 17, 2003





Cincinnati Parks Overview



Cincinnati Parks - "Everybody's Backyard"

The Cincinnati Park Board manages the City of Cincinnati's parklands. The management vision is for our parks to be clean, safe, reliable, green and beautiful. Park properties constitute over 5,000 acres, which amounts to approximately 10% of the City's total land area. Parklands consist of 5 regional parks, 70 neighborhood parks, 34 natural areas, 5 neighborhood nature centers, 30 sites managed by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, 5 parkways, 16 scenic overlooks and 50 miles of hiking & bridle trails. Specialized park property includes the Cincinnati Zoo, Pioneer Cemetery, Victory Parkway Fields, Krohn Conservatory and Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park on the downtown riverfront. Park Board responsibilities extend to managing the City's non-park natural resources, including Urban Forestry's 80,000 street trees, and select highway green spaces and neighborhood gateways.

The City Charter authorizes the Board of Park Commissioners to control and manage the parks. The mission of the Park Board is "To conserve, manage, sustain, and enhance parks' natural and cultural resources and public green space—for the enjoyment, enlightenment and enrichment of the Cincinnati community."

The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners is a five member citizen board, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council to serve six-year terms. Current Commissioners: Marian J. Lindberg, President; Howard H. Bond, Vice President; Otto M. Budig, Jr., Roscoe A. Fultz, and Francis P. Russell. The Park Director and employees are appointed by the Commissioners to implement Park Board policies, park rules and work programs. The work is performed by 121 full-time and 98 part-time employees. The department's total \$13 million budget includes funding from the City's General, Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Funds, restricted fund fees/charges, and the citywide street tree Urban Forestry assessment. The Financial Services section manages Park's operating and capital budget, seeks grants, manages endowment funds, and administers procurement, telecommunications, and the department's computer network. The Business Services section manages human resources, business planning, customer services including park facility reservations and producing

free public concerts, and supports the 16 Park Advisory Councils made up of citizen advocates of neighborhood parks.

The Division of Operations, Land Management and Urban Forestry manages the reliability (maintenance) and beautification of 75 parks as well as nature preserves, meadowlands and prairies, and manages Park's fleet of vehicles and motorized equipment. The division is also responsible for planting and maintaining 80,000 street trees within 1,000 miles of City streets, and managing select highway and gateway green space within the City.

The Division of Planning and Design provides park planning, engineering, landscape, and design services. The division maintains 130 park structures, plans and designs new parks, manages infrastructure and landscape projects, and manages the capital improvement program. This division also manages the Krohn Conservatory (open to the public 7 days a week) and Nature Education with programs delivered through the five Nature Centers and the popular summer nature camps in our neighborhood parks.



Nature Education Program

Organizational Chart

